

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0087] with the following amended paragraph:

[0087] Additional details regarding the scalable cluster data handling system, its nodes, virtual volume management, and snapshots are provided in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/633,088, now U.S. Patent No. 6,658,478, entitled "Data Storage System," (~~Attorney Docket No. M-8494~~); filed on August 4, 2000; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/883,681, entitled "Node Controller For A Data Storage System," (~~Attorney Docket No. M-8496~~); filed on June 18, 2001; and concurrently filed U.S. Patent Application No. 10/655,963, now U.S. Patent No. 7,191,304, entitled "Efficient And Reliable Virtual Volume Mapping," (~~Attorney Docket No. 3PD-M-8498-US~~), filed ~~concurrently~~. These applications are assigned to the same Assignee as the present application and are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Please replace paragraph [0099] with the following amended paragraph:

[0099] Additional details regarding the tree-like data structure and its advantages are provided in co-pending U.S. Patent Application ~~Ser.~~ No. 10/655,961, now U.S. Patent No. 7,165,156, entitled "Read-Write Snapshots," (~~Attorney Docket No. 3PD-P100~~) filed concurrently. Such application is assigned to the same Assignee as the present application and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.